For cranes acquired through 1984-85 contract, necessary sanctions were issued by the Railway Board for the first crane and the concerned CRS in terms of Section 27 of Railways Act, 1989. These cranes have been cleared by CRS for 75 kmph.

Interim Certificate to run the cranes received against 1997-98 contract has also been issued. The issue of final speed certificate in terms of Sec. 27 of Railways Act, 1989 for these cranes is under process after completion of oscillation trials by RDSO.

Doubling of the Rail Line between Khurdha Road and Puri

1794. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for doubling the rail line between Khurdha Road and Puri in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay in doubling of the above line; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The work of doubling between Khurdha Road and Puri (Phase-I), *i.e.*, from Khurdha Road to Delang (15.30 km) has been included in the Railway Budget, 2000- 2001, at an anticipated cost of Rs. 48 crore.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Preliminary works like the preparation of plans and estimates etc. are now being taken up.

Transport Plan of RITES for Bangalore

1795. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. (RITES) has submitted a transport plan for Bangalore city;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the proposed project; and

(c) the action, if any, taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rescheduling the timing of Tapaswini Express

1796. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to rescheduling the timing of Tapaswini Express and Nizamuddin (Hirakund) Express, there was Rail Roko Andolan in Western Part of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. There was "Rail Roko Andolan" for cancellation of extension of Hirakund Express to Bhubaneswar. However, there was no "Rail Roko Andolan" against the rescheduling the timings of Tapaswini Express.

(b) On 28.1.2000, the followers of Sanskrit Samaj obstructed train No. 8407 Up (Nizamuddin Express) at Sambalpur Road railway station. On the same day, followers of Kaushal Bhumi Mukti Sangathan obstructed the said train at Sambalpur railway station. They also launched a "Rail Roko" between Hirakund and Godbhaga railway stations on 7.2.2000.

Decrease in Transportation by Railways

1797. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transportation of coal, cement, steel and iron ore by the Railway has decreased over the last two years;

(b) if so, the main reasons for it; and

(c) whether the Ministry has any plan to negotiate with these sectors to retain and increase the transportation of the above sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Figures of loading of coal cement, steel and iron ore for the period April-January of the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given below:—